

NSC BRIEFING

8 November 1954

NEHRU'S CHINA TRIP

- I. Nehru and Indian press cautious at time of departure.
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A. [REDACTED] Nehru worried about appearances,
"determined" not to permit Communist propaganda capitalize
visit.

- B. Indian press, possibly government inspired, almost
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unanimously, asked China furnish concrete evidence "peaceful
intentions" in Far East.
- C. This first time such demand widely made of China, instead
of West.

- II. In China, Nehru got tremendous demonstrations, heavy press
coverage.

- A. Outdid that given top Soviet leaders.
- B. Some evidence Indians impressed by "spontaneity" of
demonstrations, despite recognition staging.

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III. Effect on Nehru and his party apparently different from
that desired, however.

A. Chinese leaders, except Chou, described as "rather
doctrinaire and rigid."

B. Impression of China's strength and unity frightened
Indians, made them realize India would be weaker
partner in any firm relationship.

C. Nehru likely to be even more cautious than before in
China dealings.

D. Nehru emphasized, after return, that India and China
had different ways of accomplishing same basic ends.

IV. Major result of trip likely to be in relations with
Indochina.

A. Nehru has hardened his thinking on spheres of influence,
decided Laos and Cambodia lie in Indian sphere.

B. Nehru told Ho Chi Minh that if Communists seek to
extend present holdings in Southeast Asia, they will
"run into trouble."

C. This may lead to early recognition of Cambodia, although
recognition of Laos and Vietnam will be delayed.

D. India may in future look more closely at Viet Minh
actions and intentions in Indochina.

1. Reports from Indian members of International Control
Commission may be scrutinized with more objective
eye than before.

V. Conclusions:

A. India's foreign policy unlikely to show major outward
changes in near future.

B. However, Nehru's increased respect for China's strength,
in comparison India, almost certain to work in favor of
West.

1. Greater suspicion of Chinese activities along
Himalayan borders.

2. Somewhat lessened criticism of West and its actions.

3. More favorable attitude toward Western aid for India's
industrialization.